Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA EIND UR US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF TIMBER AND WOOD PROCESSING

INDUSTRY V. F. ZARETSKIY

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD, TERLIZZI AND BEWT/USSR, HEISS

REF: STATE 2333

- 1. SUMMARY: DEPUTY MINISTER OF TIMBER INDUSTRY ZARETSKIY GAVE EMBOFFS HIS COMMENTS ON UPCOMING VISIT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING WASHINGTON BEFORE RETURNING HOME. USDOC ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE RELAY COMMENTS TO SPONSORING ORGANIZATION AND CONSIDER INVITATION FOR WASHINGTON VISIT. END SUMMARY.
- 2. DEPUTY MINISTER ZARETSKIY INVITED COMATT AND COMOFF TO MINISTRY DECEMBER 9 TO REVIEW ITINERARY (JAN. 13-24) ARRANGED FOR HIM BY PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL TRADE COUNCIL. ZARETSKIY OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FORWARD TO TRIP, HIS FIRST TO US, BUT OFFERED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON ITINERARY, WHICH WE PROMISED TO RELAY VIA USDOC TO PNITC: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A. HE WOULD LIKE MORE EMPHASIS ON TIMBER PROCESSING OPERATIONS, I.E. CUTTING TRANSPORT AND PRIMARY WORKING. IF POSSIBLE, HE WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE THESE OPERATIONS ON SITE.

- B. HE IS GREATLY INTERESTED IN TIMBER TECHNOLOGY AND HOPES TO HAVEOPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH SPECIALISTS HOW OUR INDUSTRY ORGANIZED AND FIND OUT WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT U.S. OPERATIONS. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT HIS FIRST EXPOSURES TO AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CAME IN LATE TWENTIES, WHEN HE WAS WORKING WITH CATERPILLAR TRACTORS IN FORESTS NEAR ARKHANGEL'SK.
- C. RATHER THAN VISIT MANUFACTURERS OF WOOD-PROCESSING MACHINERY IN THEIR OFFICES, HE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO SEE THEIR MACHINERY IN OPERATION. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN MACHINERY FOR PREPARING "PULP CHIPS", WHICH HE SAID U.S. FIRMS SOLD IN LARGE QUANTITIES TO JAPAN.
- D. HE AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO GIVE 15-MINUTE SPEECH JANUARY 14 AS PROPOSED BY COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND WILL DISCUSS FORMAT AND CONTENT AFTER ARRIVAL.
- 3. AT THE END OF HIS PACIFIC NORTHWEST ITINERARY ZARETSKIY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN VISITING WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH SENIOR COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS. ONE SUBJECT FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS COULD BE POSSIBLE US COOPERATION IN TIMBER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ALONG BAIKAL-AMUR RAILROAD, WHICH ZARETSKIY RAISED IN CONVERSATION WITH COMATT.
- 4. EMBASSY BELIEVES PROSPECTS FAVORABLE FOR SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL RESULTS FROM ZARETSKIY TRIP, ESPECIALLY SINCE LONG-STANDING SOVIET DRIVE TO ELIMINATE TIMBER WASTAGE CREATES POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR US MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY FOR PROCESSING OF LOWER-QUALITY TREES AND CHIPS. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT USDOC, IN COORDINATION WITH SOVIET EMBASSY AND PNITC, INVITE HIM TO WASHINGTON FOLLOWING PACIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTHWEST VISIT AND ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE SENIOR LEVEL OFFICIALS AT COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE. STOESSEL

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